



For more information about **Project SEARCH**,  
call 334-353-7713 or 334-293-7257.



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# VRS

Working for young adults  
with significant disabilities

## Project SEARCH



**Project SEARCH**  
*is a unique, school-to-work  
transition program  
for students with disabilities*

*Vocational Rehabilitation Service is a division of the  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services*





## [What is Project SEARCH?]

**Project SEARCH** is a one-year internship program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school. It is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment in the community.

The program takes place in a health care, government, college/university or business setting, where students are immersed in the workplace.

Students participate in up to three internships to explore a variety of career paths. Each student works with a team that includes his or her family, a teacher, job coaches, and a rehabilitation counselor to create an employment goal and to support the student during the transition from school to work.

## [How do students benefit?]

Students are able to:

- participate in a variety of internships within the host site
- acquire competitive, transferable, and marketable skills
- gain independence, confidence, self-esteem, and maturity
- obtain work-based individualized coaching, instruction, and feedback



## [How does the host site benefit?]

Host sites are able to:

- access a new and diverse talent stream with skills to match labor needs
- gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as role models for customers
- access a demographic of the economy with intense buying power (people with disabilities represent one of the fastest-growing market segments in the country)
- experience increased local and national recognition through marketing this program
- dramatically increase performance and retention in high-turnover, entry-level positions



Alabama launched two **Project SEARCH** sites in 2012 and has since expanded to numerous locations around the state.

**Project SEARCH** began at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 and has grown to almost 300 sites across the United States and Europe.

To learn more about **Project SEARCH** nationally, visit [projectsearch@cchmc.org](mailto:projectsearch@cchmc.org) or [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us).

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**Project | SEARCH®**

**Project SEARCH** is a collaboration among the Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS) division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, the Alabama State Department of Education, area school systems, and supported employment providers.